



NEWS RELEASE

07-010

Today's Date: Wednesday, February 14, 2007
District: 1 - Eureka
Contact: Ann Marie Jones
Phone: (707) 445-6444

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

2006 VOLUNTEER GROUPS OF THE YEAR ANNOUNCED

As part of a statewide campaign, outstanding Adopt-A-Highway volunteers are being recognized in each of the 12 Caltrans Districts. In District 1, the following groups will receive "Volunteer of the Year" awards for their efforts in 2006:

The Mendocino Peace and Justice Center volunteered for the District 1 Adopt-A-Highway Program in March 2005 and adopted a segment of Route 1 on the Mendocino Coast. Their area is near Caspar, a troublesome spot for litter due to its proximity to a nearby landfill. The group picks up litter monthly, and sometimes more often, due to the trash generated by untarped loads en route to the landfill. They, too, are very good at communicating with our local maintenance supervisor. They are proud of their contribution to keeping the Mendocino Coast clean. Their commitment to the community and their attitude towards volunteerism and the environment is a model for all volunteer organizations.

Carolyn and Toby Lurie volunteered for the District 1 Adopt-A-Highway Program in October 2005. Since that time, they have been busy collecting litter. They adopted a vista point near Westport but Carolyn reported, "There is just not enough litter there." This led them to take on a second adoption – a two-mile stretch of Route 1 near the town of Cleone. Carolyn and Toby clean up litter about once per month at both sites. In making this nomination, our maintenance supervisor noted that they communicate with him on a regular basis, reporting things out of the ordinary or calling to report how much litter they collected. "Communication is the key to this program running smoothly" stated Brennan Ladao, Fort Bragg Maintenance Supervisor.

In Del Norte County, the Redwood National and State Park Employees have made a tremendous effort to keep their adopted roadsides clean. The Park employees have been volunteers in the District 1 Adopt-A-Highway Program since June 2004, when they adopted a section of Route 101 just north of Crescent City. They remove litter on both the north and southbound roadsides. Originally, the group adopted one side of the highway but felt they wanted to do more and requested the other side also, thereby doubling their workload. They have done an excellent job of keeping their area clean and free of litter at the northerly entrance to Crescent City.





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Caltrans District 1 currently has 302 volunteer groups in its Adopt-A-Highway Program. These groups remove litter; plant wildflowers, trees and shrubs; maintain litter-free Park and Ride lots and Vista Points and remove undesirable vegetation. In the 2006 calendar year, these groups have collected approximately 5,000 bags amounting to 650 cubic yards of litter from highways, Park and Ride lots, and Vista Points. Additionally, the Adopt-A-Highway volunteers have helped to divert approximately 5,000 pounds of recyclable material from landfills.

The Adopt-A-Highway Program, which began in 1989, is a successful government-volunteer partnership. The Caltrans Adopt-A-Highway Program provides an opportunity for individuals, organizations or businesses to help maintain a section of roadside within the California highway system. Statewide, more than 15,000 shoulder miles are adopted. This represents over 50% of the State highway system. Adoptions generally consist of a two-mile stretch of roadside and permits are issued for a two-year period. Adopters are recognized for their contribution by the placement of a roadside sign.

In the seventeen years the program has been in existence, volunteers have collected litter in more than 4,000 locations. Last year, volunteers removed more than 200,000 bags of litter or 30,000 cubic yards of litter from the state highway; enough bags to reach from Stockton to South Lake Tahoe or from Bakersfield to Disneyland if laid end to end!

NOTE TO MEDIA: Celebration plans are for invited guests, public officials, and media.

- The Mendocino County celebration is scheduled for Thursday, February 22, 2007 at 1:00pm at the Fort Bragg Beachcomber Motel, 1111 North main Street, Fort Bragg.
- The Del Norte County celebration is scheduled for Tuesday, April 10, 2007 at 10:00am at the Del Norte County Board of Supervisors Chambers, 981 H Street, Crescent City.

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